

Ministry of Education

Safe Schools and Student Well-Being
Branch

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction de la sécurité dans les
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**MEMORANDUM TO:**

Directors of Education
District School Boards

FROM:

Eileen Silver
Director (A)
Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Branch

DATE:

April 12, 2016

SUBJECT:

Violent Incidents Data

Attached for your review is a three year summary of Violent Incidents in all Boards. In 2011-12, school boards began annual reporting on the total number of violent incidents to the ministry, per Policy/Program Memorandum 120: *Reporting Violent Incidents to the Ministry* (P/PM 120). In addition to an updated definition, P/PM 120 included a requirement for boards to collect and analyse data about the nature of these violent incidents in order to support the development of board policies and to better inform board and school improvement plans.

The term *violent incident* is defined as the occurrence of any one of the following, or the occurrence of a combination of any of the following:

- possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm
- physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical attention
- sexual assault
- robbery
- using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person
- extortion
- hate and/or bias-motivated occurrences.

The ministry has received data from school boards for the 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years and some boards were contacted by ministry staff to discuss what appeared to be 'higher than the norm' violent incident numbers.

Earlier this year the data for 2011-12 and 2012-13 was released to the media through a Freedom of Information request. Subsequently, some questions were raised concerning the consistency and accuracy of the data.

As with any new data/reporting initiative, it is important that we work together to ensure accurate data and clarify collection guidelines. To this end, please find attached the violent incident data reported by boards for the 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. We ask that you please reply to safeschools@ontario.ca after reviewing your board's data, identify any issues and use the accompanying report template to provide accurate data for all school years by May 13, 2016.

Thank you for your continued efforts as we work together to promote a safe and accepting school climate where all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Eileen Silver

c.c. Regional Offices
 District School Board Safe Schools Supervisory Officers
 Attachments